PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takeshi HIRABAYASHI et al. Attn: PCT Branch

Application No. New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: August 7, 2006 Docket No.: 128996

For: EXHAUST GAS PURIFYING CATALYST, METAL OXIDE PARTICLE AND PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREOF

TRANSMITTAL OF THE ANNEXES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto is a translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Report on Patentability. The attached translated material replaces the material in the specification from page 14 to page 15.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An exhaust gas purifying catalyst comprising a metal oxide particle containing ceria and at least either one of alumina and silica, and a noble metal supported on said metal oxide particle,

wherein said metal oxide particle has a core where the total molar number of alumina and silica is larger than the molar number of ceria, and a surface layer where the molar number of ceria is larger than the total molar number of alumina and silica;

wherein said metal oxide particle has a particle size of 500 nm or less; and

wherein the molar ratio of (Al+Si):Ce in the metal oxide particle is from 1:0.5 to 0.5:1.

2. (Amended) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein said metal oxide particle is formed from a solution containing a ceria sol and a sol of at least either one of alumina and silica.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Amended) The exhaust gas purifying catalyst as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said noble metal is platinum.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Amended) A process for producing a metal oxide particle having a core where the total molar number of alumina and silica is larger than the molar number of ceria, and a surface layer where the molar number of ceria is larger than the total molar number of alumina and silica, said process comprising:

preparing a solution containing a ceria sol and a sol of at least either one of alumina and silica, wherein the isoelectric point of the ceria sol differs more than 3.5 from that of said at least one of alumina and silica sol,

adjusting the pH of said solution to be closer to the isoelectric point of the sol of at least

either one of alumina and silica than to the isoelectric point of the ceria sol, and to fall within ±2.0 of the isoelectric point of alumina and/or silica sol, and

aggregating the sol from said solution to produce an aggregate.